United Nations A/56/515

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 45
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 29 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to refer to the "White Paper on Partnership for Peace and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories" annexed to document A/AC.109/1999/1 and Corr.1.

In this connection, the Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to announce its rejection of the above-mentioned "White Paper" insofar as it refers to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and rejects the designation of these colonial Territories whose sovereignty is in dispute as Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom or any other similar designation, as well as any attempt to introduce unilateral changes in the situation while the sovereignty dispute is still unresolved.

The Argentine Government wishes once again to recall that the General Assembly adopted resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25 in which it recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with respect to the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces. In addition, the Assembly described the question as a special and particular colonial case which should be resolved through bilateral negotiations between the two Governments through the good offices of the Secretary-General, who should report to the General Assembly on the progress made.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its rights of sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces, which are an integral part of its national territory.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note to be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 45.

(*Signed*) Arnoldo M. **Listre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-61048 (E) 311001 311001

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 16 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 2, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, decided that the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme should be headed by the Executive Director of the Programme, who should be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of four years.

2. In its decision 52/316 of 3 December 1997, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly elected Klaus Töpfer (Germany) to be Executive Director of the Programme for a four-year term of office, beginning on 1 February 1998 and ending on 31 January 2002.

3. In accordance with the above-mentioned provision of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Secretary-General wishes to nominate Mr. Töpfer for re-election as Director of the Programme for a four-year term, beginning on 1 February 2002 and ending 31 January 2006.

01-61124 (E) 311001

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 8 and 12

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: reports of the General Committee

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 26 October 2001 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 13 (b) of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, the Report of the Economic and Social Council is on the agenda of the regular session of the Assembly under item 12. Some parts of the report are considered in the plenary of the General Assembly. Other relevant parts of the report are taken up by the Second, Third and Fifth Committees.

Unlike the reports of the other principal organs, such as the Security Council and the International Court of Justice, in previous years the General Assembly has not devoted adequate attention to the report of the Economic and Social Council. As you know, and as has been acknowledged most recently by the heads of State and Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Economic and Social Council has, in recent years, made substantial progress in strengthening its capacity to carry out the functions assigned to it under the Charter. In view of the importance of the work of the Economic and Social Council, it would be most appropriate if the General Assembly considers, in its plenary, the whole report of the Council, in accordance with Article 15 (2) of the Charter.

At its forty-fifth meeting, held on Wednesday, 24 October 2001, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize me to request you to kindly allocate a reasonable period of time in the plenary for the introduction and consideration of the report of the Council as a whole.

(*Signed*) Martin **Belinga-Eboutou**

01-61650 (E) 021101

United Nations A/56/518

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 12 and 123

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 (A/C.5/56/4). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The net estimated additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001 amount to $1,964,000 (ibid., para. 28). The estimated additional requirements relate to Economic and Social Council decisions 2001/218, 2001/292 and 2001/293 on the United Nations Forum on Forests and 2001/316 on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as to the extract from the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-fifth session concerning the outcome of the review of its methods of work (E/2001/L.8). No additional conference-servicing resources would be required, as provision is made in section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[1] not only for meetings already programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of meetings that might be authorized subsequently, provided that the pattern of meetings was consistent with past years (see A/C.5/56/4, para. 3).

3. By its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to establish the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Council. It also decided that the Forum would hold a short organizational session, as soon as possible, to elect officers and to decide on the location of its secretariat, and that the Forum, at its first substantive session in 2001, should adopt a multi-year programme of work and decide on the venues of its future sessions.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that at the time of the preparation of the initial budget estimates for the biennium 2002-2003, it was not possible to assess resource requirements for the functioning of the secretariat of the Forum, as decisions on the multi-year programme of work, the location of the secretariat and the secondment of staff had yet to be taken at the Forum's session in 2001 (ibid., para. 5).

01-61274 (E) 051101

5. At its organizational session, in February 2001, the Forum decided to locate its secretariat at Headquarters in New York. By its decision 2001/218 of 3 May 2001, the Economic and Social Council decided that the first and fifth substantive sessions of the Forum would be held in New York and that two of the three intervening sessions would be held in Geneva and one in San José, Costa Rica. The Forum adopted a multi-year programme of work at its first substantive session, in June 2001, and the Council, by its decision 2001/293 of 25 July 2001, took note of the report of the Forum on its first session.

6. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will form part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and will report directly to the Under-Secretary-General (ibid., para. 12). The Advisory Committee notes that the secretariat of the Forum currently consists of eight posts (2 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 L-7 and 2 General Service (Other level)) and one Junior Professional Officer. At present, all of the posts are funded through extrabudgetary resources. The Committee notes further that sufficient extrabudgetary resources are available to enable the current staff to continue until the end of 2001.

7. The proposal is for the secretariat of the Forum to comprise six established posts (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 2 General Service (Other level)) to be funded from the regular budget under section 9, Economic and social affairs, beginning in the biennium 2002-2003, at an estimated cost of $754,300 (ibid., para. 14). The Advisory Committee notes that the staff complement of the secretariat is expected to be strengthened through secondments from international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as voluntary contributions. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that staff secondments were expected to total five for the biennium. The estimate under section 9 also provides for $256,000 for consultants, $253,600 for expert group meetings, $232,300 for travel of staff, $44,200 for general operating expenses, $5,400 for supplies and materials and $27,000 to replace office automation equipment.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that resource requirements of $119,900 were included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the travel of representatives of member States of the Forum that are also members of the Commission on Sustainable Development and are participating in the session, and that no additional requirements were expected to arise in that regard (ibid., para. 10). The Committee also notes that travel support is envisaged for representatives of least developed countries not members of the Commission to participate in the sessions of the Forum and that such support would be provided from available extrabudgetary resources.

9. Under section 27D, Office of Central Support Services, estimates total $519,800, of which $238,000 relates to non-recurrent costs for office alterations and acquisition of furniture and fixtures, and $281,800 relates to recurrent costs for rental of premises (ibid., para. 15). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that at present the secretariat of the Forum was located at 2 United Nations Plaza in New York. The Committee is of the opinion that the current arrangements for financing accommodations for the Forum secretariat should continue in the biennium 2002-2003; such additional requirements as may arise should be indicated in the performance reports for 2002-2003.

10. The Advisory Committee notes that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2001/316 of 26 July 2001, the first annual session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is to be convened at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 17 May 2002. However, it had been assumed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 22, Human rights, that the Forum would meet in Geneva. Accordingly, additional requirements of $54,800 would arise for the differential cost of travel and subsistence of members of the Forum ($44,000) and for the travel of two staff members to New York ($10,800) (ibid., para. 18).

11. The Advisory Committee also notes that in paragraph 22.19 of the proposed programme budget provision is made for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold three three-week sessions and three one-week meetings of the pre-sessional working group annually. However, as the result of a review undertaken by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its methods of work, the Committee decided at its twenty-fifth session, held from 23 April to 11 May 2001, that for an experimental period of two years it would hold only two sessions per year. The Committee submitted an extract (E/2001/L.8) of its report to the Economic and Social Council concerning the issue. A statement of programme budget implications (E/2001/L.18) was also submitted to the Council. The resulting reduction

in costs under section 22 is estimated at $340,800, and includes reductions for travel and daily subsistence allowance for members of the Committee ($323,200) and for daily subsistence allowance for members of the pre-sessional working group ($17,600) (A/C.5/56/4, para. 23).

12. The net reduction under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget resulting from Economic and Social Council decision 2001/316 and the extract of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights amounts to $286,000.

13. As stated in paragraph 9 above, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the requirements under section 27D, Office of Central Support Services ($519,800) (see ibid., para. 15) should continue to be met in the biennium 2002-2003 in the same manner as in the current biennium. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee take note of the estimate of $1,444,200, on the understanding that such appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly.

Notes

[1] The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 (Introduction), A/56/6 (Sects. 1-33), A/56/6 (Income sects. 1-3) and A/56/6/Corr.1. The approved programme budget will subsequently be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Rev.1).

United Nations A/56/519–S/2001/1033

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 29 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement of 29 October 2001 by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar condemning and denouncing the massacre of innocent civilians in Pakistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-61346 (E) 311001 311001

Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

In a statement by an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Qatar News Agency, the State of Qatar has reaffirmed its condemnation and repudiation of the massacre of innocent civilians, irrespective of place and time, on the grounds that such an action is not sanctioned by divine law, humanitarian values or international covenants, particularly those relating to the role of worship.

In that context, the official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed his condemnation of the attack on several churches in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which resulted in a number of civilian fatalities.

The official source restated the firm position of the State of Qatar in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

29 October 2001

United Nations A/56/520-S/2001/1037

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the addresses delivered by Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba, on 22 September and 6 October 2001 on the subject of terrorism (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-62265 (E) 091101 121101

Annex I to the letter dated 26 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba, at the Tribuna Abierta de la Revolución, San Antonio de los Baños, Havana, on 22 September 2001

No one can deny that terrorism is today a dangerous and ethically indefensible phenomenon that must be eradicated, regardless of its deep economic and political origins and those responsible for them.

The unanimous anger aroused by the human and psychological damage done to the American people by the unexpected and shocking deaths of thousands of innocent people, whose images have shaken the world, is understandable. But who are the ones who have profited from it? The extreme right, the most backward and right-wing forces, those in favour of crushing the growing world rebellion and sweeping away everything progressive that remains on the planet. Whoever organized and was responsible for this act committed an enormous error, a tremendous injustice and a grea. crime.

Nevertheless, the tragedy should not be used to start a war recklessly, in the name of justice and under the peculiar and bizarre name of "Infinite Justice", that could actually unleash an endless carnage of innocent victims.

In the past few days we have seen the hasty establishment of the foundations, the concept, the true purposes, the spirit and the conditions of such a war. No one could claim that it was not something well thought-out in advance, something that was just waiting for a chance to materialize. After the so-called end of the cold war, those who continued a military build-up and the development of the most sophisticated means of killing and exterminating human beings were aware that their huge military investments would give them the privilege of imposing their absolute and complete dominance over the other peoples of the world. The ideologists of the imperialist system knew very well what they were doing and why they were doing it.

After the shock and sincere sorrow felt by all peoples throughout the world for the atrocious and insane terrorist attack against the people of the United States, the most extremist ideologues and most belligerent hawks, already established in their privileged positions of power, have taken command of the most powerful country in the world, whose military and technological capabilities seem infinite. Its capacity to destroy and kill is enormous, while its inclination towards equanimity, serenity, thoughtfulness and restraint is minimal.

The combination of elements, including complicity and the common enjoyment of privileges with the other powerful and rich countries, and the prevailing opportunism, confusion and panic, make it almost impossible to avoid a bloody and unpredictable outcome.

The first victims of whatever military actions are undertaken will be the billions of people living in the poor and underdeveloped world, with their unbelievably serious economic and social problems, their unpayable debts and the ruinous prices of their basic commodities; their growing natural and ecological disasters; their hunger and extreme poverty; the massive undernourishment of their

children, teenagers and adults; their terrible AIDS epidemic; and their malaria, tuberculosis and infectious diseases, which threaten whole nations with extermination.

The grave world economic crisis was already a real and irrefutable fact affecting absolutely all of the major economic power centres. This crisis will inevitably worsen under the new circumstances, and when it becomes unbearable for the overwhelming majority of people, it will bring chaos, rebellion and the inability to govern.

But the price will also be unpayable for the rich countries. For years to come, it will be impossible to speak out strongly enough about the environment and ecology, or about new ideas, research and testing, or about nature conservation projects because these will be crowded out by military actions, war and crimes as infinite as "Infinite Justice", the name given to the war operations to be unleashed.

Can there be any hope left, after listening to the speech delivered by the United States President before the Congress barely 36 hours ago?

I shall avoid the use of adjectives, qualifiers or offensive words towards the author of that speech. They would be absolutely useless and badly timed, when the tensions and seriousness of the moment favour thoughtfulness and equanimity. I shall limit myself to quoting some short sentences that say it all:

"We will [use] every necessary weapon of war."

"Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign, unlike any other we have ever seen."

"Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists."

"I've called the armed forces to alert, and there is a reason. The hour is coming when America will act, and you will make us proud."

"This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight."

"I ask for your patience [...] in what will be a long struggle."

"[...] the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time, now depends on us."

"The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain [...] and we know that God is not neutral."

I ask our fellow countrymen to meditate deeply and calmly on the ideas contained in several of the above-mentioned sentences.

• "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

No nation of the world has been left out of the dilemma, not even the big and powerful States; none has escaped the threat of war or attack.

• "We will use any weapon."

No procedure has been excluded, regardless of its ethics, nor has any threat, however fatal — nuclear, chemical, biological or any other — been excluded.

- "It will not be a short combat but a lengthy war, lasting many years, unparalleled in history."
- "It is the world's fight; it is civilization's fight."
- "[...] the great achievement of our time, and the great hope of every time, now depends on us."

Lastly, an unheard-of confession in a political speech on the eve of war, and no less so in a time of apocalyptic danger: "The course of this conflict is not known, yet its outcome is certain [...] and we know that God is not neutral."

The assertion is astounding. When I think about the real or imagined parties involved in the bizarre holy war that is about to begin, I find it difficult to distinguish which fanaticism is stronger.

On Thursday, before the United States Congress, the idea was put forward of a world military dictatorship under the exclusive rule of force, irrespective of any international law or institution. The United Nations, which has been simply ignored in the present crisis, would fail to have any authority or prerogative whatsoever. There would be only one boss, only one judge and only one law.

We have all been ordered to become allies either with the United States Government or with terrorism.

Cuba, the country that has suffered the most and the longest from terrorist actions, the one whose people are not afraid of anything because there is no threat or power in the world that can intimidate them, courageously proclaims that it is against terrorism and against war. Although the possibility is now remote, Cuba reaffirms the need to avert a war of unpredictable consequences, whose very authors have admitted they have not the slightest idea of how events will unfold. Likewise, Cuba reiterates its willingness to cooperate with every country in the total eradication of terrorism.

An objective and calm friend should advise the United States Government not to cast young American soldiers into an uncertain war in remote, isolated and inaccessible places, where they will fight against ghosts whose whereabouts and even existence is uncertain, not knowing whether the people they kill are responsible or not for the killing of their innocent countrymen in the United States.

Cuba will never declare itself an enemy of the American people, who are today being subjected to an unprecedented campaign to sow hatred and a vengeful spirit, so much so that even the music inspired by the hope of peace has been banned. On the contrary, Cuba will make that music its own, and even our children will sing their songs of peace as long as the announced bloody war lasts.

Whatever happens, the territory of Cuba will never be used for terrorist actions against the American people, and we will do everything within our power to prevent such actions against them. Today we are expressing our solidarity, while urging peace and calmness. One day they will admit we were right.

We shall defend our independence, our principles and our social achievements with honour, to the last drop of blood, if we are attacked.

It will not be easy to fabricate pretexts for such an attack. They are already talking about a war using all necessary weapons, but it will be useful to recall that

not even that would be a new experience. Almost four decades ago, hundreds of strategic and tactical nuclear weapons were aimed at Cuba, and nobody remembers any Cuban losing sleep over that.

We are the same sons and daughters of that heroic people, with a patriotic and revolutionary conscience that is stronger than ever. It is a time for serenity and courage.

The world will become aware of this and will raise its voice in the face of the terrible tragedy it is about to suffer.

As for Cubans, this is the time to proclaim ourselves prouder and more resolute than ever:

Socialism or death!

Homeland or death!

We shall overcome!

Annex II to the letter dated 26 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the Republic of Cuba, at the Tribuna Abierta de la Revolución, Plaza de la Revolución, on 6 October 2001, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the terrorist attack off the coast of Barbados

History is capricious and is given to strange twists. Twenty-five years ago, in this very same square, we bid farewell to a few coffins containing tiny fragments of the human remains and personal belongings of some of the 57 Cubans, 11 Guyanese — most of them students on scholarships in Cuba — and 5 Korean cultural officials who died as a result of a brutal and incredible act of terrorism. What was especially moving was the death of the entire youth fencing team, male and female, who were returning with all the gold medals they had won in a Central American championship in that sport.

A million of our fellow countrymen, with tears in their eyes, in many cases running down their cheeks, bid a more symbolic than actual farewell to our brothers and sisters whose bodies were lying at the bottom of the ocean.

No one, with the exception of a group of friendly distinguished persons and institutions, shared our sorrow; there was no uproar in the world, no serious political crises, no meetings at the United Nations, no imminent threat of war.

Perhaps few people in the world understood the terrible significance of that act. How important could it be that a Cuban civilian aircraft was destroyed in mid-flight with 73 people on board? It was as if it was a normal occurrence. Had not thousands of Cubans died already in La Coubre, Escambray and the Bay of Pigs and in hundreds of terrorist attacks, acts of piracy and other similar actions? Who was going to attach importance to the complaints of a tiny country? It seemed that a simple denial from our powerful neighbour and its news media, which flooded the world, was sufficient and the matter would be forgotten.

Who could have predicted that almost exactly 25 years later a war with unpredictable consequences would be on the point of breaking out as a result of an equally repugnant terrorist attack which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people in the United States? Back then, in what now appears to be a tragic omen, innocent people from several countries died; on this occasion human beings from 86 nations perished.

Then, as now, there were hardly any remains of the victims. In Barbados, not a single body could be recovered; in New York, only a few were recovered and not all of those could be identified. In both cases, family members were left with a vast emptiness and immense distress; the horrific crime brought unbearable sorrow and deep indignation to the peoples of each country. These were not accidents or the result of mechanical failures or human error; they were deliberate acts, conceived and carried out in cold blood.

There were, however, some differences between the monstrous crime committed off the coast of Barbados and the inconceivable and sinister terrorist attack against the people of the United States. In the United States, the act was the work of fanatics who were prepared to die alongside their victims; in Barbados, it

was the work of mercenaries who did not run the slightest risk. The main goal in the United States was not to kill the passengers; the perpetrators hijacked the aircraft in order to attack the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, without any concern for the death of the innocent people travelling in them. In Barbados, the basic objective of the mercenaries was to kill the passengers.

In both cases, the anguish suffered by the passengers during the final minutes of their lives, especially those in the fourth aircraft hijacked in the United States — who already knew what had happened in New York and Washington — must have been terrible, like that of the crew and passengers of the Cuban aircraft during the desperate attempt to return to land when it was clearly impossible to do so. In both cases, there were demonstrations of courage and determination: in Barbados, we learned of them from the recorded voices of the Cuban crew, and, in the United States, from reports from that country on the attitude adopted by the passengers.

Moving filmed images have remained of the horrific events in New York. Not a single photograph has remained, nor could remain, of the explosion of the aircraft off the coast of Barbados and its plunge into the sea. The only testimony left is to be found in the dramatic communications between the crew of the doomed aircraft and the control tower at the airport in Barbados.

This was the first time in the history of Latin America that such an act had been instigated from abroad.

In this hemisphere, the systematic use in the political arena of such cruel and terrible practices and procedures was initiated against our country. It was preceded in 1959 by another equally senseless and irresponsible practice: the hijacking and diversion of aircraft in mid-flight, a phenomenon which was practically unknown in the world at that time.

The first attack of this kind was the hijacking of a DC-3 passenger aircraft bound from Havana to the Isla de la Juventud by several former members of the repressive forces of Batista's tyranny, who diverted the aircraft and forced the pilot to fly to Miami on 16 April 1959. This was less than four months after the triumph of the Revolution. The perpetrators of the attack were never punished.

Between 1959 and 2001, a total of 51 Cuban aircraft were hijacked and almost without exception diverted to the United States. Many of these hijacked aircraft were never returned to Cuba. A number of pilots, guards and other people were killed or wounded and several aircraft were destroyed or seriously damaged in failed hijacking attempts.

As a consequence, the plague of hijackings of aircraft in mid-flight soon spread to the United States itself, where, for the most varied reasons, a number of people, most of them unbalanced individuals, adventurers or common criminals, from both the United States and Latin America, began to hijack aircraft, armed with firearms, knives, Molotov cocktails and sometimes just bottles of water made to look as though they contained gasoline, with which they threatened to set the aircraft on fire.

Thanks to the painstaking care of the Cuban authorities, not a single accident occurred upon landing and the passengers always received proper treatment and were immediately returned to their places of origin.

Most of the hijackings and diversions of Cuban aircraft occurred between 1959 and 1973. Faced with the risk of a catastrophe in the United States or Cuba, since there were hijackers who, once they had taken control of an aircraft, threatened to fly it into the Oak Ridge atomic plant if certain demands were not met, the Government of Cuba took the initiative of approaching the Government of the United States — at that time under the Presidency of Richard Nixon and with William Rogers as Secretary of State — with a proposal for an agreement to deal with cases of hijacking of aircraft and piracy at sea. The proposal was accepted and the agreement was quickly drawn up; it was signed by representatives of the two Governments on 15 February 1973 and immediately published in the Cuban press and given wide coverage.

This reasonable and well-drafted agreement established heavy penalties for hijackers of aircraft and ships. It served as a deterrent. From that date on, there was a considerable reduction in the number of Cuban aircraft hijacked; during a period of over 10 years every attempted hijacking in Cuba failed.

The brutal terrorist attack that led to the explosion of the Cuban aircraft in mid-flight dealt a devastating blow to this excellent and effective agreement. As a result of this inconceivable act of aggression and taking into account the fact that it occurred in the middle of a new wave of terrorist acts against Cuba unleashed towards the end of 1975, the Cuban Government denounced the agreement, in accordance with the clauses stipulated therein. However, it retained in force, unchanged, the measures set out in the agreement against the hijacking of United States aircraft, including the application of severe penalties which, under the agreement, had been increased to sentences of up to 20 years' imprisonment. Even before the agreement was signed, the Cuban courts had been applying the penalties established in our Penal Code against aircraft hijackers, although the penalties were less severe.

Despite the strict application of the penalties, a few United States aircraft were hijacked and diverted to Cuba. After due advance warning, the Cuban Government returned two hijackers to the United States on 18 September 1980, handing them over to the United States authorities.

During the period from September 1968 to December 1984, 71 incidents were recorded of aircraft being hijacked and diverted to Cuba. According to the records, 69 participants in those hijackings were tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment of between three and five years; subsequently, after the signing of the 1973 agreement, sentences ranged from 10 to 20 years.

As a result of the measures taken by Cuba, there has not been a single incident of the hijacking or diversion of a United States aircraft to Cuba in the past 17 years.

What, on the other hand, has been the attitude of the United States? From 1959 until today, the United States authorities have not punished a single one of the hundreds of individuals who have hijacked and diverted to that country dozens of Cuban aircraft, not even those who committed murder in carrying out the hijacking.

It is impossible to conceive of a greater lack of basic reciprocity or a greater incitement to the hijacking of aircraft and ships. This rigid policy has been maintained for over 42 years, without a single exception, and is still being maintained.

The constructive agreement between the Governments of Cuba and the United States on the hijacking of aircraft and ships, the results of which were immediately evident, was apparently accepted by the principal leaders of the terrorist groups. Some had cooperated or participated actively in the organization of irregular warfare, through armed groups which, at certain times, extended throughout the six former provinces of the country. The majority of them had been recruited by the United States Government in the days of the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Cuban missile crisis, and in later years, to take part in all kinds of violent actions, especially in assassination plots and terrorist attacks that did not leave any sphere of economic and social life untouched or rule out any method, any procedure or any weapon.

They attended all kinds of institutions, schools and training programmes, at times to be trained and at other times to be entertained.

Dramatic events such as the Kennedy assassination gave rise to major investigations, including those carried out by a United States Senate committee. The embarrassing situations and scandals which resulted compelled a change of tactic but no genuine change of policy towards Cuba, which explains why, after relative periods of calm, there were new waves of terrorism.

That is what happened in late 1975. The Church Commission had submitted its well-known report on plots to assassinate the leaders of Cuba and other countries on 20 November of that year. The Central Intelligence Agency could not continue to assume direct responsibility for assassination plots and terrorist acts against Cuba. The solution was simple: the most trustworthy and best-trained terrorist personnel would form groups which would act independently and on their own authority. This led to the sudden birth of a bizarre coordinating organization called CORU, which was made up of the principal terrorist groups. As a rule, those groups were sharply divided by leadership ambitions and self-interest. A violent wave of terrorist actions was unleashed. In mentioning just a few of them, taken from the many major acts of terrorism which were committed during this new period, I would point out that the following occurred within the space of only four months:

Pirate speedboats from Florida attacked two fishing boats on 6 April 1976, causing the death of one fisherman and severe damage to the boats;

A bomb planted in the Embassy of Cuba in Portugal killed two members of the diplomatic staff, inflicted serious injuries on a number of other staff and totally destroyed the premises on 22 April;

An assault with explosives was perpetrated against the Cuban Mission to the United Nations on 5 June, causing serious material damage;

A bomb exploded in the van carrying the luggage for a Cubana Airlines flight at Kingston airport, Jamaica, on 9 July, moments before it was due to be loaded aboard;

A bomb exploded in the offices of British West Indies Air in Barbados, which represented the interests of Cubana Airlines in that country, on 10 July;

A fisheries expert was murdered during the attempted kidnapping of the Cuban consul in the Mexican city of Mérida on 24 July;

Two members of the Cuban Embassy staff in Argentina were kidnapped on 9 August and were never heard from again;

A bomb exploded in the offices of Cubana Airlines in Panama on 18 August, causing considerable damage.

This shows clearly that a real war was in progress. The airlines were the target of a number of attacks.

The New York Times and *US News and World Report* called it a new wave of terrorism against Cuba.

The groups making up CORU, which began operations in early 1976 although it was not officially constituted until June of that year, issued public statements in the United States claiming responsibility for each of the acts they perpetrated. They sent war dispatches, as they called them, from Costa Rica to the Miami press. In August, one of their organs published an article under this very title, "War dispatch", describing the destruction of a Cuban embassy. That same day, it did not hesitate to publish a particularly significant communiqué signed by the five terrorist groups that made up CORU: "We shall very soon attack aircraft in mid-flight".

To carry out their strikes, the CORU terrorists utilized without difficulty as their principal bases of operation the territories of the United States, Puerto Rico, Somoza's Nicaragua and Pinochet's Chile.

Only eight weeks later, the aircraft with 73 persons on board would be blown up off the coast of Barbados.

Hernán Ricardo and Freddy Lugo, the two Venezuelan mercenaries who planted the bomb on the Trinidad and Tobago-Barbados leg of the flight, left the plane in Barbados, returned to Trinidad, were arrested and immediately admitted their involvement.

The Barbados Police Commissioner stated before an investigative committee that Ricardo and Lugo had admitted that they worked for the CIA. He added that Ricardo had pulled out a CIA card and a second card setting out the rules for the use of C-4 plastic explosives.

On 24 October 1976, *The New York Times* reported that the terrorists who had launched a wave of attacks in seven countries during the past two years were the products and instruments of the CIA.

The Washington Post noted that contacts confirmed with the United States Embassy in Venezuela cast doubt on the statement issued on 15 October by the United States Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, to the effect that nobody connected with the United States Government had had anything to do with sabotage of the Cuban aircraft.

A correspondent of the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* then commented from Port of Spain that, thanks to the admission by Hernán Ricardo Lozano, the Venezuelan detained in Trinidad, for responsibility for the attack on a Cubana Airlines aircraft which had crashed off the coast of Barbados with 73 persons on board, a major anti-Castro terrorist network somehow connected with the CIA was about to be exposed.

Le Monde stated that the CIA connection with groups of Cuban-born terrorists who moved freely on United States soil was public knowledge.

Many of the most highly respected organs of the international press expressed a similar opinion.

Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, who masterminded the terrorist crime and had been associated with the CIA since 1960, were arrested and underwent a tortuous trial, plagued with irregularities, amidst enormous pressure. The Venezuelan judge, Delia Estaba Moreno, instituted legal proceedings against them for murder, the manufacture and use of firearms, and forgery and possession of false documents. Her upright attitude elicited a violent reaction from the extreme right-wing political mafia.

General Elio García Barrios, the presiding judge of the Military Court, maintained a firm and decisive stance, thanks to which the two terrorists were required to serve a prison term of several years. The Miami terrorist mafia took their revenge by riddling one of his sons with bullets in 1983.

Posada was rescued by the Cuban-American National Foundation, which sent US$ 50,000 via Panama to finance his escape. The day of the escape was 18 August 1985. In a matter of hours, he turned up in El Salvador. No sooner had he arrived than he was visited by the leaders of the Foundation. It was the time of the dirty war in Nicaragua. He was immediately entrusted with important tasks by the White House, which asked him to supply weapons and explosives by air to the counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua.

The meaning and magnitude of the tragedy go far beyond the cold figure of 73 innocent persons murdered in Barbados.

Americans would certainly grasp its magnitude more fully if they were to compare the Cuban population of 25 years ago with the United States population on 11 September 2001. The death of 73 persons aboard a Cuban aircraft blown up in mid-air is equivalent, in United States terms, to seven aircraft owned by United States airlines, each with more than 300 passengers aboard, destroyed in mid-flight on the same day, at the same time, by a terrorist conspiracy.

If we go a little further and take into account the 3,478 Cubans who have died in over four decades as a result of acts of aggression, including the Bay of Pigs invasion and all the terrorist acts against Cuba which originated in the United States, it is as though 88,434 people had died in the latter country, a figure almost equal to the number of Americans who died in the Korean and Viet Nam wars combined.

These words of denunciation are not inspired by hatred or rancour. I understand that United States officials do not want to even hear mention of these embarrassing matters. They say that we should look ahead.

It would, however, be senseless not to look back to see where the mistakes were made which must not be repeated and what are the causes of major human tragedies, wars and other disasters that might have been avoided. Innocent people should not have to die anywhere in the world.

We have staged this massive protest against terrorism as a homage and a tribute to the memory of our brothers and sisters who died off the coast of Barbados 25 years ago, but also as an expression of solidarity with the thousands of innocent

people who died in New York and Washington and a condemnation of the brutal crime committed against them. We seek ways of eradicating terrorism once and for all, of ensuring peace and avoiding a bloody and interminable war.

I am utterly convinced that the ties between the anti-Cuba terrorist groups set up in the United States during the first 15 years of the Revolution and the authorities of that country have never been severed.

On a day such as this, we are entitled to ask ourselves what action will be taken against Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, who were responsible for the horrendous terrorist act in Barbados, and against those who planned and financed the planting of bombs in hotels in the capital city and the attempts on the lives of Cuban leaders, which have not let up for even a minute in over 40 years.

It is not too much to ask that these professionals of terrorism be brought to justice. From the very territory of the United States, they have not ceased to apply their insidious craft against our people, in order to sow terror and destroy the economy of a harassed and blockaded country, even though not one terrorist device nor even one gram of explosive has ever left our territory to cause an explosion in the United States. Not one American has been killed or injured, not one facility, large or small, in that immense and rich land has suffered the slightest material damage as the result of an action initiated in Cuba.

In the global struggle against terrorism, to which we have committed ourselves alongside the United Nations and the rest of the international community, we have the necessary moral authority and the right to demand an end to the terrorism against Cuba . The economic war to which our people have been subjected for more than 40 years, in what amounts to a genocidal and brutal action, must also cease.

Our brothers and sisters in Barbados who died off the coast of Barbados are no longer simply martyrs. They are symbols in the struggle against terrorism. They rise today like giants in this historic battle which we are waging to eradicate terrorism from the face of the earth and to do away with a repugnant tactic which has injured their country so severely and heaped so much suffering on their loved ones and their nation, a nation that has already written pages without precedent in the annals of its homeland and its times.

Their lives have not been sacrificed in vain. Injustice is starting to tremble before an energetic and virile nation, which wept with indignation and sorrow 25 years ago and today weeps with emotion, hope and pride as it remembers them.

History, in its capriciousness, has wanted it that way.

On behalf of the martyrs of Barbados:

Socialism or Death!

Homeland or Death!

We shall overcome!

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Letter dated 29 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary prepared by the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba concerning the principal terrorist actions against Cuba during the period 1990-2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parrilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Summary of principal terrorist actions against Cuba (1990-2000)

Since 1959, counter-revolutionary groups established and run by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have committed a number of terrorist acts, which have cost our country valuable lives and vast resources.

In the early 1990s, encouraged by the collapse of the socialist camp, these groups acting from United States territory and other bases of operations in Central America intensified their violent actions against the people of Cuba and their leaders.

Details are given below of some of the most important of these, about which information has been made public:

17 July 1990. After lobbying by the Florida Republican Congresswomen Ileana Ros and Connie Mack, the President of the United States, George Bush, released the known terrorist Orlando Bosch, who master-minded the attack which destroyed a Cuban civilian aircraft in mid-flight in October 1976, killing all 73 persons on board.

14 October 1990. Armed infiltration via Santa Cruz del Norte organized from Miami of two terrorists with orders to commit acts of violence. Their weapons and forged documents issued in Miami were confiscated.

They were carrying flyers inviting people to join the so-called "*Cuban Liberation Army*" led by Higinio Diaz Anne, who gave them money and leaflets before their departure.

15 May 1991. José Basulto, former Bay of Pigs mercenary, known terrorist and CIA agent, founded the so-called "*Brothers to the Rescue*" and for that purpose asked the United States President, George Bush, for three United States Air Force 0-2 aircraft, the military version of the Cessna, which had been used during the war in El Salvador. Congresswoman Ileana Ros campaigned publicly and lobbied for the three aircraft to be provided. On 19 July 1992, the first photos appeared in the press of the aircraft provided to this counter-revolutionary group with the acronym USAF clearly visible, in an article by the publisher of *The Miami Herald*, who had flown in them.

17 September 1991. Infiltration of two counter-revolutionaries from Miami for the purpose of sabotaging shops frequented by tourists in order to spread terror among foreign tourists. Their weapons and a radio transmitter were confiscated.

29 December 1991. Infiltration of three terrorists from the so-called Comandos L from Miami, whose weapons and other military equipment were confiscated.

These terrorists had received training at a camp on 168th Street in Miami, where about 50 or 60 other men were also trained.

8 May 1992. Cuba denounced the terrorist activities against its territory at the United Nations. At its request, an official Security Council document was issued containing a decision of the United States Department of Justice dated 23 June 1989 declaring that Orlando Bosch was excludable from United States territory because of extensive evidence of his past and present terrorist activities, including the bombing of a Cuban airliner in 1976.

This person is now freely walking the streets of Miami, following a presidential pardon granted to him by President George Bush.

4 July 1992. A group of terrorists from the United States tried to attack economic targets along the Havana coastline. When detected by Cuban patrols, they moved to waters off Varadero, where the vessel broke down and was rescued by the United States Coast Guard.

Although their weapons, maps and video cassettes made during the voyage were confiscated, the terrorists were released by the FBI.

July 1992. Failure of an operation to infiltrate a terrorist from the United States, who was going to sabotage an economic target in the province of Villa Clara.

He had the necessary weapons and explosives to carry out this plan and was being assisted by "*Brothers to the Rescue*", who reported to him the position of the United States Coast Guard in order to make it easier for him to reach Cuban territory.

9 September 1992. A terrorist of Cuban origin detained by the FBI for illegal possession of firearms and violation of the Neutrality Act was released without charges.

7 October 1992. Armed attack on the Melia Varadero Hotel from a vessel manned by four terrorists from Miami, who were detained and questioned by the FBI and released.

19 October 1992. Infiltration of three counter-revolutionaries from the United States, from whom weapons and considerable amounts of military equipment were confiscated. At the same time, three other terrorists were detained in the territory of the Bahamas, from whom weapons and explosives apparently destined for Cuba were also confiscated. These counter-revolutionaries had left Miami on 17 October.

January 1993. The United States Coast Guard detained five terrorists on board a gunboat with heavy machine guns and other weapons as they were approaching the Cuban coastline. They were released.

7 January 1993. Tony Bryant, leader of the terrorist group "Comandos L", announced at a Miami press conference plans to carry out more attacks against targets in Cuba, especially hotels. He said "*from now on, we are at war with Cuba*" and warned foreign tourists to "*stay away from Cuba*".

2 April 1993. About 7 miles north of Matanzas, the Cypriot-owned tanker *Mikonos* was fired on from a vessel manned by terrorists of Cuban origin from the United States.

18 May 1993. Violation of Cuban airspace by "*Brothers to the Rescue*" aircraft N8447.

21 May 1993. The United States Customs arrested nine terrorists on board a vessel preparing to go to Cuba and attack it. Weapons and explosives were confiscated from them. On 21 August, Justice Lawrence King dismissed the charges against them.

May 1993. "*Brothers to the Rescue*" planned to blow up a high-voltage pylon near San Nicolás de Bari in La Habana province.

October 1993. "*Brothers to the Rescue*" publicly encouraged attempts on the life of President Fidel Castro and violence against Cuba, and confirmed their willingness to accept the "*resulting risks*".

Andrés Nazario Sargén, head of the Alpha 66 terrorist group, announced in the United States that his organization had recently completed five operations against Cuba.

18 October 1993. A terrorist residing in the United States was arrested upon arrival in Cuba; he was planning acts of violence inside Cuba.

7 November 1993. Humberto Pérez, spokesman for Alpha 66 in Miami, announced at a press conference that its war against Cuba would shortly be extended to any tourist visiting the island. He stated "*those who stay in Cuban hotels are considered as enemies*".

1993. A Cuban national was recruited in the United States and visited Cuba for a terrorist organization to carry out sabotage activities in Cuba in the tourism and agriculture sectors. For this action, he was provided with some of the equipment needed and was offered the sum of $20,000.

11 March 1994. A terrorist group from Miami fired shots at the Guitart Cayo Coco Hotel.

17 April 1994. Aircraft owned by "*Brothers to the Rescue*" flew over Havana at low altitude and dropped smoke bombs. In the next few months of 1994, there were at least seven other violations by the same group.

4 September 1994. Infiltration of two terrorists from the United States via the Caibarién district, Villa Clara, with the aim of performing sabotage in that province. Weapons and large amounts of ammunition were confiscated from them.

6 October 1994. Another armed group in a vessel coming from Florida fired automatic weapons against the Guitart Cayo Coco Hotel.

15 October 1994. A group of armed terrorists from the United States landed on the causeway to "*Cayo Santa Maria*" near Caibarién, Villa Clara, and assassinated comrade Arcelio Rodríguez García.

October 1994. "*Brothers to the Rescue*" used one of its aircraft to train members of a counter-revolutionary organization from Florida to perform sabotage against the Cienfuegos oil refinery.

In November that year, they also planned to make an attempt on the life of President Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Revolution and to smuggle weapons and explosives into the national territory.

November 1994. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles and five of his accomplices smuggled weapons into Cartagena, Colombia, during the Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government for an attempt on the life of President Fidel Castro, but the security forces kept them at a distance preventing the attempt. Posada Carriles later informed *The New York Times*: "*I was standing behind some journalists and saw Castro's friend, García Márquez, but I could only see Castro from a distance*".

11 November 1994. Four terrorists were arrested in Varadero, Matanzas, after infiltrating the country. Weapons and ammunition were confiscated from them.

2 March 1995. Infiltration via the coastal region of Puerto Padre, Las Tunas, of two terrorists from the United States, who were carrying 51 pounds of C-4 explosives and other equipment.

4 April 1995. A light C-337 plane violated Cuban airspace north of Havana between Santa Fe and Playa de Guanabo.

20 May 1995. Terrorists on a fast launch originating in the United States launched another attack on the Guitart Cayo Coco Hotel.

12 July 1995. Three terrorists were arrested in the United States as they were getting ready to infiltrate Cuba, taking advantage of a provocative action off the Cuban coast. The United States authorities seized their weapons and explosives, but released them.

13 July 1995. 11 vessels, 6 light planes and 2 helicopters originating in the United States organized by "*Brothers to the Rescue*" entered Cuban territorial waters and airspace. One of the light planes flew over the centre of Havana and dropped propaganda materials.

16 December 1995. Two terrorists, who were planning to infiltrate through Pinar del Rio to carry out subversive actions, were arrested in the United States. The United States authorities seized their weapons and explosives, but released them.

9 January 1996. Two light planes originating in Opa Locka, Florida, violated Cuban airspace.

12 January 1996. A Cuban émigré, resident in the United States, was arrested while preparing to transfer explosives from Havana to Pinar del Rio.

13 January 1996. Several "*Brothers to the Rescue*" planes violated the airspace over Havana. The terrorist, Basulto, later said: "They say that I flew over Cuban territory; everyone knows that and I have never denied it."

23 January 1996. United States authorities intercepted a vessel carrying five armed terrorists in Cayo Maratón; they were heading for Cuba. The FBI released them that same day.

11 February 1996. Cuban border guards seized a vessel with three terrorists on board that had originated in the United States, after shots were fired at the coastline.

24 February 1996. "*Brothers to the Rescue*" launched another foray. Three light planes violated Cuban airspace very close to the centre of Havana; two of them were shot down. In the 20 months preceding that incident there had been at least 25 other violations of Cuban airspace.

26 June 1996. At a meeting of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the chairman of its commission of inquiry acknowledged that at least two of the "*Brothers to the Rescue*" aircraft in Opa Locka airport still bore markings of the United States Air Force: "the F is a little pale, it looks as if it is beginning to fade, but you can still see it".

21 August 1996. A United States citizen was arrested after smuggling military equipment into the country; he had been planning to carry out terrorist acts on Cuban soil.

16 September 1996. Ciego de Avila was arrested; he had infiltrated via Punta Alegre on a vessel loaded with weapons and a large amount of ammunition.

21 October 1996. A light SS-RR type plane with the registration N3093M belonging to the United States State Department sprayed a substance containing the pest Thrip Palmi Karny while flying over the "Giron" international corridor some 25 to 30 kilometres south of Varadero.

November 1996. Channel 23 in Miami, broadcast a live television interview with Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch. They said that they intended to continue their terrorist activities against Cuba.

12 April 1997. A bomb exploded in the Melia Cohiba Hotel, in Havana.

30 April 1997. An explosive device was found in the Melia Cohiba Hotel.

12 July 1997. Bombs exploded in the Capri and National hotels.

4 August 1997. Another bomb exploded in the Melia Cohiba Hotel.

11 August 1997. The Miami press published a statement by the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) giving unconditional support to the terrorist bomb attacks on civilian and tourist targets in Cuba. The president of that organization stated: "We do not consider these to be terrorist acts" and added that any action against Cuba was legitimate.

22 August 1997. A bomb exploded in the Sol Palmeras Hotel in Varadero.

4 September 1997. Bombs exploded in the Tritón, Chateau Miramar and Copacabana hotels. The explosion in the latter killed Fabio Di Celmo, a young Italian tourist. That same day, another bomb went off in the El Bodeguita del Medio restaurant.

10 September 1997. The Cuban Government announced the arrest of Raúl Cruz León, a citizen of El Salvador and the person responsible for planting six of the bombs that went off in various hotels in the capital, including the one that killed the Italian tourist, Fabio Di Celmo. Cruz León admitted that he had been paid US$ 4,500 for each bomb.

19 October 1997. An explosive device was found on a tourist minibus.

27 October 1997. The United States Coast Guard stopped a vessel west of Puerto Rico and seized two 50-calibre precision rifles and their tripods, night vision equipment, military uniforms and communications equipment. These sophisticated weapons, strictly military in nature are designed for long-range attacks on vehicles and aircraft. One of the occupants of the launch stated that he planned to assassinate Fidel Castro when the President arrived at Isla Margarita, Venezuela, to attend the Ibero-American Summit on 7 November 1997.

The United States authorities found that the launch was registered to a Florida company. The chief executive officer, director, secretary and treasurer of that company was José Antonio Llama, a CANF official and one of the mercenaries who took part in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

One of the rifles was registered in the name of José Francisco "Pepe" Hernández, president of CANF. The other had been bought in 1994 by a member of Brigade 2506.

The four crew members of the launch were identified as: a known CIA agent; the captain of a CIA boat used by teams infiltrating into Cuba from Florida; the chairman of a New Jersey counter-revolutionary group and a member of Alpha 66.

Despite their own confessions and clear proof of illegal possession of weapons, false testimony and weapons smuggling, these terrorists were acquitted by a Federal Court in December 1999, after a rigged trial.

30 October 1997. An explosive device was discovered in a service kiosk outside terminal 2 at Havana's José Martí airport.

Two citizens of Salvadoran origin and three Guatemalans with ties to the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles were later arrested and charged with criminal activities against tourist facilities.

16 November 1997. Following an investigation that lasted two months, a Florida newspaper reported that the bomb attacks in Havana had been directed and financed by anti-Cuban groups based in Miami and that Luis Posada Carriles, a fugitive from justice for having blown up the Cuban aircraft in 1976, was the man pulling the strings.

May 1998. Infiltration by two terrorists who came from the United States and entered Cuba through Santa Lucía, Pinar del Río, with numerous weapons and munitions.

16 June 1998. Following various exchanges in which the Government of Cuba gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other agencies of the United States Government information on terrorist activities in the United States against Cuba, an official delegation that included two senior FBI officials came to Havana and was provided with specific information, including films, tapes and other material evidence on the activities of 40 terrorists operating from United States territory.

12 July 1998. *The New York Times* of that date reported statements by the Cuban-American Antonio Jorge Álvarez that the FBI had not investigated his reports of a planned attack against President Fidel Castro to be carried out at the Ibero-American Summit in Venezuela. Álvarez said that he had provided information the preceding year to the effect that Posada Carriles and a group that worked in his factory in Guatemala were planning such an attack and the bombings in Havana: "I risked my life and my business, and they did nothing".

12 and 13 July 1998. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Luis Posada Carriles admitted that he had organized the bombing campaign against tourist sites in Cuba, that the leaders of the Cuban American National Foundation had financed his operations and that Jorge Mas Canosa, the Foundation's President, had personally overseen the flow of money and logistical support: "Jorge controlled everything. Whenever I needed money, he said to give me $5,000, give me $10,000, give me $15,000, and they sent it to me". Posada also admitted that he had paid Raúl Cruz León to plant the bombs in Havana hotels. Referring to the Italian tourist killed by one of them, he told the *Times*: "That Italian was sitting in the wrong place at the wrong time". To prepare these articles, the *Times* used Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and FBI files, testimony from more than 100 people and more than 13 hours of taped interviews with Posada, and even documents which he himself had signed.

23 July 1998. The Miami press published an article entitled "Anti-Castro plots seldom lead to jail in U.S.". The article cited a number of cases, such as the 1990 acquittal of six terrorists who had shipped a cannon and other weapons to Nicaragua to attack the Cuban President, and the 1994 cases of Rodolfo Frómeta and Fausto Marimón, who were charged with planning to use Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other weapons for terrorist activities. The article also included statements by the well-known terrorist Tony Bryant to the effect that, in 1989, the FBI had stopped him with a shipment of weapons and explosives in a boat, but had let him go. He added that two of his 14 missions against Cuba had been intercepted but that nothing had ever happened to him.

2 August 1998. Posada Carriles, in an interview for the programme *Polos Opuestos* on the television channel CBS Telenoticias, said that he intended to perpetrate further attacks against Cuban installations within or outside the island.

August 1998. Following the announcement that President Fidel Castro would attend the Caribbean Forum summit meeting in the Dominican Republic, terrorist elements of Cuban origin planned to carry out an attack between 20 and 25 August. To that end, the terrorist Posada Carriles held a meeting at the Holiday Inn hotel in Guatemala City one month beforehand to plan how to bring weapons and explosives to Santo Domingo.

12 September 1998. Authorities in Miami arrested the five Cuban patriots who had done their duty to defend Cubans and Americans against the terrorist acts organized, prepared and launched against Cuba, with total impunity, from United States territory.

17 November 2000. Panamanian authorities arrested a group of terrorists headed by Posada Carriles, who had entered Panama with false documents to carry out an attack against President Fidel Castro during the tenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. Weapons, explosives and sketches of the Cuban President's route and scheduled public appearances were seized. The Cuban American National Foundation financed the team of lawyers hired to defend the terrorists.

26 April 2001. Three terrorists belonging to the F-45 and Alpha 66 commando groups tried to enter Cuba from the north of Villa Clara province and were captured after they shot at Cuban border guards who detected them. Authorities seized four AKM rifles, one M-3 gun with a silencer, three handguns, a large supply of ammunition, night-vision weapon sights and means of communication, which were to be used to carry out acts of sabotage and terrorism in Cuba.

In addition to the above-mentioned acts, the Cuban authorities have learned of 16 planned attacks against the President of Cuba, eight planned attacks against other leaders of the Revolution and 140 other terrorist plans between 1990 and 2001, which were thwarted, discouraged or blocked by the work of Cuba's security and intelligence agencies.